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Cutthroat competition



MICHELLE ALLENBERG/POSTMEDIA NETWORK
Pelham Mayor Dave Augustyn talks to Niagara Health Services dietary helper and meal preparation worker Leatha Chailfoux about the Meals on Wheels program. See story on Page 3.



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UPFRONT

Still room for vendors at Pelham Home Show

ALLAN BENNER
Postmedia Network

Home shows organizers face some tough competition, working to bring in vendors as well as shoppers looking for products and service to spruce up their homes.

For the Fonthill Kinsmen who are preparing for their 21st annual Pelham Home and Garden Show, April 22 to 24, that competition has usually come from St. Catharines where the Niagara Lifestyle Spring Home Show held has been taking place for a quarter of a century.

But now in addition to the home show in St. Catharines taking place this year from March 28 to 30 at the Seymour-Hannah Sports Centre, 240 St. Paul St. W, Pelham Home Show organizer Dave Ripley said they're also facing competition from the big event at the Scotia Centre in Niagara Falls that took place a few weeks ago.

While exhibitors sometimes set up booths at more than one event, he said that's not always possible for many business owners who are already too busy running their respective companies to spare the manpower for home shows.

With a little more than a month to go before the Pelham Home and Garden Show begins at the Pelham arena, 1120 Haist St., Ripley said they still have about a dozen spots to fill for a total of 88 vendors.

"We need a few more, not a heck of a lot, but we're still looking for some," he said.



Visitors peruse the 2014 Pelham Home Show at the town's Haist Street arena.

FILE PHOTO

But in addition to recruiting vendors, Ripley said "then you're always fighting for the patrons to come in."

But the Kinsmen, he

added, focus on drawing shoppers from south Niagara communities, rather than St. Catharines and Niagara Falls.

"We are really going after people from Fonthill, Welland, Port Colborne and Wainfleet," Ripley said.

The Kinsmen, he added,

aren't expecting to bring in the same attendance as the shows in Niagara's largest cities. But the people who do visit are more recep-

tive to the vendors who are there.

He said vendors that have participated in the past have told him: "You have less people coming through the show, but we get a lot more leads from your show than we do at any other show."

Despite dealing with competition from events in neighbouring communities, the Kinsmen won't be in competing with another local home show that began a few years ago in Welland.

In May, 2014, Welland businesses Urge To Purge teamed up with a few other local companies to organize a home show held at Riverstone Event Centre on River Road.

That event featuring 42 vendors "was a home run," said Lynn Melloni from Urge To Purge.

But organizing it was also a lot of work.

"Unfortunately, we are so busy and so involved in urge to purge that we have very little time to do justice to it," she said.

However, she didn't rule out bringing it back in 2017.

"Let me think about it for next year."

"I may be able to get a few people involved, because it was such a wonderful day and it was so good for the city," she added.

More information about becoming a vendor at the Pelham Home and Garden Show is available by contacting Ripley at 905-892-5598, or by email, dave.kinsmen-homeshow@gmail.com/.

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Mayors rolling with Meals on Wheels

MICHELLE ALLENBERG
Postmedia Network

Two Niagara mayors rolled up their sleeves and put on their volunteer hats last Thursday to deliver meals as part of the Meals on Wheels program.

For about six years the Mayors Meals has been running in Niagara. The event gives mayors the opportunity to meet with the many people who benefit greatly from the program.

Last Thursday morning Welland mayor Frank Campion and Pelham Mayor Dave Augustyn geared up to deliver hot and frozen meals to about a dozen residence in the Welland and Pelham areas.

"The mayors go out and deliver the meals with our volunteers. So it gives our clients a chance to connect with our mayors, which they love. It gives the mayors a chance to see what kind of services we are providing and what kind of clients we are providing those services to," Cheri Della-Gatta, Meals on Wheels coordinator, said.

Augustyn said he thinks the program is important in the lives of so many people. The meals provide proper nutrition and an opportunity to check-up on people.

"They allow folks to live a little more independently and longer in their own home. It provides peace of mind for loved ones and relatives," Augustyn said.

During a typical week Della-Gatta said they deliver anywhere from 250 to 300 hot meals. Meals on Wheels also delivers frozen meals. Della-Gatta said they usually deliver about 200 frozen meals per week.

For Della-Gatta the significance of the mayors' involvement is it creates recognizability. She said it gives the organization a chance to promote the program.

Campion said the Mayors Meals program raises the organization's profile and gets the word out about the service.

This helps attract more volunteers and

could encourage more people to sign up for the service.

"I believe for some people it is a critical service, where for some people they wouldn't be receiving meals on a regular basis," Campion said.

The service is provided for anyone who is over the age of 60, or anyone who is a disabled adult. Della-Gatta said they have some clients as young as 18 who are living on their own and are unable to make proper meals for themselves. She said the younger clients will usually get the frozen meals because the meals are adaptable. The client also doesn't have to be home everyday to accept the frozen meals.

Volunteers deliver the meals every day on 35 different routes in the Welland and Pelham area. Currently there are about 60 people donating their time to the program.

"We are always looking for volunteers and always looking to service our clients better. We are always interested in any type of partnerships," Della-Gatta said.

Clients and the volunteers received a special Easter treat. Della-Gatta said every holiday the organization tries to do something special.

"This year they are getting a special meal, which they always do before that holiday... with a special dessert that isn't a typical menu item," she said.

They each received a notepad, pen and some chocolates. The volunteers also received a gift.

Della-Gatta said the program isn't just about the meals, it's about creating relationships. The volunteers visit the same people each week and create a bond with those people.

She said the program creates the opportunity to check-up on people and make sure they are OK.

Malenberg@postmedia.com



MICHELLE ALLENBERG/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Pelham Mayor Dave Augustyn, centre, and volunteer Rick Armstrong, left, talk to Niagara Health Services dietary helper and meal preparation worker Leatha Chalfoux about the Meals on Wheels program.

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Saturday April 16th, 2016
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'We've been thinking about Christ's Resurrection

FATHER DAVID GRAHAM SCOTT
St Ignace of Antioch Orthodox Church

On March 8, I visited the Man in the Shroud exhibit at St. Alfred's Church at Vine and Carlton streets in St. Catharines. In front of the altar stretched a replica of the Shroud of Turin, showing the front and the scoured back of a crucified man.

The shroud's documented history started in the 1300's when a pious noble in Italy built a church to house it. But it seems that the shroud had come from Constantinople after Crusaders sacked the city in 1204. Accumulating scientific evidence suggests the probability that the Shroud of Turin is Christ's burial shroud.

One of the posters at the exhibit speculated that the image of the crucified Christ was imprinted on the shroud when his corpse was transformed by the power of his divine nature into a new kind of body. And so the risen Christ passed through the shroud as he later passed through the rock tomb and later through the locked door behind which the grieving disciples were hiding (John 20).

The shroud was empty. The tomb was empty. Christ had risen.

Christ's resurrection was not the resuscitation of a dead person like Lazarus (John 11). Lazarus would die again, and the Sanhedrin were planning his second death (12:10). The resurrection of Lazarus was a sign of the transforming resurrection that Christ would accomplish.

The risen Jesus was transformed and was not instantly recognizable. Neither Mary Magdalene (John 20) nor Cleopas and companion recognized him (Luke 24) until later. And yet he could be touched; he invited



MAX ROSS/REUTERS

Cardinal Agostino Vallini holds a cross as Pope Francis leads the "Via Crucis" (Way of the Cross) procession, which commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus Christ at the Colosseum in Rome on March 25.

Thomas to finger his wounds.

He could break bread with Cleopas and later eat a piece of broiled fish and some honeycomb with his other disciples.

St Paul spoke of our resurrection as a

change in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye (1 Corinthians 15:52). He said that a person is sown as a natural body, but raised as a spiritual body. He said that Christ, the last Adam, became a life-giving spirit.

Now a spiritual body is not an insubstantial after-image. C.S. Lewis described what heaven is like in his book *The Great Divorce*. The divorce is between heaven and hell (Luke 16:26). Lewis's novice traveller in heaven finds it hard to walk on heaven's grass because it is so substantial. He can hardly look at devout people he once knew because they shine with such glory. Just so the spiritual body of the resurrection is so substantial that it lasts forever. And we will be transformed like that when Christ comes again to judge the living and the dead and to make all things new (Revelation 21:5).

What has all this to do with us here and now? When Paul was depressed by the continuing thorn in his flesh, Christ told him, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my strength is made perfect in weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9).

John Chrysostom commented that whereas the resurrection is thought to be something in the future, Paul shows that "it happens every day: for when God raises a man again who is in despair and has been brought to the very gates of Hades, he shows no other thing than the resurrection, snatching out of the very jaws of death the one who had fallen into them."

In the Orthodox Liturgy I address the people, saying, "Christ is in our midst." And they respond, "He is and ever shall be." And we greet each other with these words time after time.

The power of Christ's resurrection extends to us here and now, renewing our faith, reviving our hope, kindling our love, motivating us to do good works.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

An elegant and affordable community centre for Pelham

MAYOR DAVE AUGUSTY

Last Tuesday, Council received several presentations about the Pelham community centre.

The architects presented an elegant yet very efficient design that includes adaptable and multi-purpose community spaces, a double-gymnasium (dividable into four sections), a double arena (main arena with 1,000 seats; second with less than 100 seats), an indoor walking/running track, a concession area, change rooms and washrooms, and an atrium/lobby area.

Based on an item-by-item-review of the design and informed by their experience on more than 30 community facilities, Ball Construction estimated the construction costs at \$32.5 million. The construction managers also pegged total project costs,

including design, furniture, fixtures and permits at \$36.2 million.

Staff stated that the community centre will cost \$46.66 for an average residential property (assessed at \$309,200) or 3.44 per cent on the 2016 Pelham portion of the tax bill only. That amount will allow the Town to purchase a 30-year debenture of \$9.07 million from Infrastructure Ontario.

Since council already approved project funds in our 2016 Budget, the town will not require any further property tax increases to build the centre beyond this year.

The town will fund the remaining costs through development charges, east Fonthill land sales and fundraising.

All new housing units and construction pay development charges to cover the costs for the facilities and infrastructure required to help serve their new developments. The

town's charges can fund \$12.1 million for the centre.

In 2005, the town purchased the 32 acres at the corner of Rice Road and Highway 20 for \$3.6 million (\$112,000 per acre). After re-designating, re-zoning, and fully-servicing those lands, the town will be able to sell nearly 20 acres for an estimated \$12 million (\$600,000 per acre). (Including the \$1.1 million in interest payments, this sale would represent a return on investment of more than 150 per cent.)

Based on a number of one-on-one interviews, a professional fundraising feasibility study recommends that the community can raise at least \$3 million for the centre. The town will acknowledge donor generosity through naming and various other types of donor recognition.

This conservative financial plan does

not include revenue from other sources like assessment growth from new housing/developments or from upper levels of government. (Council and I will continue to work with local MPs and MPs to attract government investments for this project and/or other infrastructure improvements.)

You may review the designs and the financing plans for this very important and exciting project at www.pelham.ca/community-centre or at town hall or library branches.

And, you may speak to the architect, construction manager, town staff, volunteer architectural design advisory committee members and councillors at open houses on Saturday, April 16.

You may contact Mayor Dave at mayor-dave@pelham.ca or read past columns at www.pelhammayordave.blogspot.com.

LOCAL NEWS

Get a lift with web-based ride-matching service

ALISON LANGLEY
Postmedia Network

A new approach to carpooling has arrived in Niagara.

Niagara Ride Share, a free web-based ride matching service, virtually connects people living in the same neighbourhood so they can share a ride to work, school or appointments.

"It connects commuters to the community," said Carla Stout, transit program manager with the Town of Fort Erie.

The concept is simple. Participants register online at www.niagararideshare.ca and enter their driving preferences and destinations.

After that, the system matches participants with other people who are close by and going to the same place at the same time.

There are no fees involved, however participants can negotiate with each other to split the cost of gas if they choose.

A Brock University student from Fort Erie, for example, whose schedule matches that of another Brock student from Fort Erie can make a connection on the Niagara Ride Share website to get to and from school.

"And, someone from Niagara Falls working in Fort Erie and returning at the same time that someone from Fort Erie is starting their shift in Niagara Falls can make a connection," Stout added.

Rhonda Barron, a health promoter at Bridges Community Health Centre in Fort Erie, said the two-year pilot



MIKE DIBATTISTA/
POSTMEDIA NETWORK
Niagara Ride Share, a free web-based ride matching service, is a new approach to carpooling in Niagara. The service virtually connects people allowing them to share a ride to work, school or appointments. On hand to kick off the new program is driver Rhonda Barron, a health promoter at Bridges Community Health Centre in Fort Erie, passenger Carla Stout, transit program manager with Fort Erie, and Amy Devereaux, Bridges' program manager.

program will be beneficial to local residents — and the environment.

"You'll bring down your gas expenditures, save wear and tear on your vehicle and it's also great for the environment because you're reducing your carbon footprint," she said.

The financial savings can be significant, Barron added. A taxi from Fort Erie to Niagara Falls, for example, costs around \$40.

"The cost of living for a family of four in Niagara is just over \$65,000," Barron said.

"Some of the largest expenses are transportation

and childcare. If we can't increase wages, we need to look at opportunities to save money and transportation costs are a key piece of that."

Stout and Barron began investigating the possibility of launching a ride share program in Niagara after researching a similar program in London, Ont.

That program began in 2007 and recently expanded to include surrounding rural communities.

Organizers are quick to point out that Niagara Ride Share is not Uber, where consumers submit a trip request

on a smart phone which is then routed to drivers who use their own cars.

"With Uber, you contact a driver and they come and pick you up and charge you a fee," Stout explained.

"That is a ride hail service. This is a ride share service where carpoolers come together."

The service, funded through a grant from the Niagara Prosperity initiative and supported by Bridges and the Town of Fort Erie, was launched last month.

Tareale McLean, executive director at Bridges, said the

NIAGARA RIDE SHARE

What: free web-based ride matching service

Where: across the Niagara region

How: Register at www.niagararideshare.ca

A new program is also a way for people to give back to their community.

"There are many people without a car who could benefit from a lift to an appoint-

ment, event or visiting a family member," she said. "They may live around the corner from us and their destination is close to yours."

Falls Avenue Resort was one of the first employers to register for the service as a way to assist existing and prospective employees in getting to and from work.

Employers, institutions and organizations can contact Barron at 905-871-7621 ext. 2226 to have their organization added to the site.

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In The NEWS

BOGGIO'S DONATION TO UNITED WAY



Port Colborne, Ont. - Today at 11 a.m., Boggio Family of Pharmacies showed their support for United Way of South Niagara when Larry, Aaron, Kyle and Cathy Boggio, and Donnie Edwards presented a cheque for \$20,000 to the organization.

"We are so proud that we are able to help an organization that does so much for the communities of South Niagara," said Donnie Edwards, Co-Owner at Boggio & Edwards Pharmacy in Ridgeway, Ontario. "We want to ensure that we are able to help the communities we are located in as much as possible."

The group presented United Way of South Niagara's Deanna Pope and President David Hawkins at the Boggio Family of Pharmacies Port Colborne location with a cheque for \$20,000. Staff

members at Boggio Family of Pharmacies' four locations make donations on dress-down days throughout the year and the owners match the funds.

"After matching our staff donations, we planned on donating just over \$15,000 to United Way of South Niagara this year," said Larry Boggio, Owner of Boggio Family of Pharmacies. "When we heard that the charity was shy of its annual fundraising goal, myself and the other owners decided to increase the donation to \$20,000."

"We are so grateful to have such amazing staff that helped us make this donation happen," added Kyle Boggio, Co-Owner at Boggio Fonthill Pharmacy.

United Way recently reported that they may not meet their annual \$650,000 fundraising goal. Lack of funds would put program funding at risk, something that the Boggio Family of Pharmacies do not want to see happen.

"We hope that other companies will also be inspired to help United Way of South Niagara during this crucial time," said Aaron Boggio, Co-Owner at Boggio & MacKinnon Pharmacy in Niagara Falls, Ontario. "When businesses donate, they are ultimately supporting the communities that support their business."

Boggio Family of Pharmacies began serving the Niagara region when they opened Boggio Pharmacy in Port Colborne in 1983. Boggio Family of Pharmacies now have stores in Niagara Falls, Fonthill and Ridgeway as well and look forward to serving the Niagara region with exceptional and thorough customer service in the years to come.

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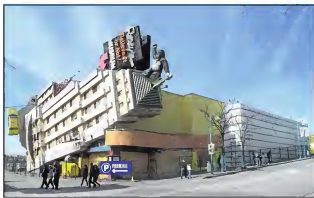
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LOCAL NEWS



JOHN LAW/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Closed since Nov. 1, Ripley's Believe It or Not will be completely transformed when it re-opens in May with more than a thousand new exhibits and interactive displays.

Ripley's gets a revamp, believe it or not

JOHN LAW
Postmedia Network

It won't be the same old Ripley's Believe It or Not when the Clifton Hill attraction re-opens in May.

Not even close, says general manager Tim Parker. Of the 850 oddities and exhibits it contained, only about 15 will be coming back. When the doors open,

the new-look Ripley's will offer 1,100 items.

"Ninety-eight per cent of the show will be all brand new exhibits," he says. "It's very interactive, it's not like (before) where you'd walk and look and read. It's all hands-on, touch, feel."

Continued on Page 8

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Pelham Community Centre

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Update

On March 22, Council received updated information about the Pelham Community Centre that will improve our community's quality of life.

Get Informed

Visit pelham.ca/community-centre for the latest designs, videos, presentations, costing, reports and more on the project.

Open Houses: Saturday, April 16

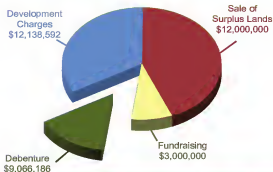
Check out display boards and speak to the Architect, Construction Manager, Town Staff, volunteer Architectural Design Advisory Committee members and Councilors at:
Fire Station #2 (766 Welland Rd.) from 10 AM to Noon
Fire Station #1 (177 Hwy #20) from 2 to 4 PM

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- For an average residential assessment, this means an increase of \$46.66 for 2016 only (or \$3.90 per month)
- This amount is completely funded within the increase **already approved** in the Town's 2016 Budget
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pelham.ca/community-centre



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Ripley's gets a revamp, believe it or not

From Page 6

"You're exploring the world as (Ripley's) did."

The 53-year-old attraction was just the third Ripley's Odditorium when it opened in 1963 (there are now 31). It has seen more than 10 million visitors and remains one of the anchor attractions on Clifton Hill.

It started as more of a museum, but Parker says it will be more of an "odventure" when it returns. It will be a total revamping of the interior, with the small showrooms replaced by large exhibit spaces.

It will also be about 1,100 square feet larger thanks to space which used to serve as the mechanical room for the nearby Comfort Inn, which has been demolished.

"When the hotel went down we didn't need the mechanical room any more."

The massive revamp was hardly planned. The building closed on Nov. 1 for what Parker thought was going to be a "little bit of a paint job" but owners The Jim Pattison Group decided to gut the interior.

"We decided we're going to take it all out, right down to the four walls, and start all over again," says Parker.

"This is the first major renovation like this since we opened in 1963."

"There's nothing left. We took out the plumbing, the heat, the hydro, the

cables, the wires ... everything's gone. It was time."

It's the museum's biggest change since a new facade was created in 2005, featuring King Kong on a toppled Empire State Building.

New exhibits will include a "Bumblebee" Transformer made entirely from used car parts, an albino Buffalo, the Mona Lisa painted from nail polish, the world's tiniest nano-sculptures (viewed through a microscope) and a "big focus" on Niagara Falls, says Parker.

While he wouldn't give an exact cost for the renovation, Parker says it's "in the millions."

"This particular Odditorium will be the largest, most expansive Odditorium we've ever done in the entire chain."

It's part of the hefty makeover going on at the foot of Clifton Hill, with four acres of new attractions slated for the former Comfort Inn property and Kelsey's expanding into the former Ramours Nightclub.

Parker hasn't chosen an exact date for the Ripley's re-opening, but says it will be within the first two weeks of May.

"We will have some special guests and it'll be a very ... let's say, unique and unusual grand opening."

john.law@sunmedia.ca

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Sam Succar

Conditional sentence for pizza rage

ALISON LANGLEY
Postmedia Network

A St. Catharines man has received a nine-month conditional sentence in connection with a series of events that began after he flew into a rage because he couldn't go out and buy pizza.

It all started the afternoon of Sept. 8, 2015, after James Pollack was unable to get to his car because his common-law spouse's daughter had parked her vehicle in the driveway of his home.

"There's no real explanation as to why he lost control that day," Judge Peter Wilkie said Tuesday in Ontario Court of Justice in St. Catharines.

Pollack, 51, was sentenced to the conditional sentence last Tuesday after pleading guilty at an earlier date

to uttering a threat to cause death, committing an assault while armed with a knife, careless storage of six long-barrel firearms, and carrying a firearm for a purpose that is dangerous to the public peace.

Assistant Crown attorney Stacey Sheehan said the defendant threatened to kill the daughter before heading out to get the pizza. When he returned home with the pizza, he brandished a knife, held it close to the woman's throat and repeated his threat to kill her.

Pollack swung the knife several times and the victim received three minor cuts to her hand. During the assault the mother tried to assist the daughter who managed to flee from the residence.

When police arrived, they found Pollack in the basement armed with a gun.

Ten minutes later when the accused left the residence he was arrested.

Police seized six long-barrel firearms that were found unsecured in the basement.

The judge said police showed "admirable restraint"

in the way they handled the case.

"There was a brief but potentially very, very dangerous standoff with police when Mr. Pollack retreated to the basement of the house and took possession of a gun," the judge said.

"This could have been a disastrous situation."

Defence lawyer Mike DelGobbo said his client has never been in trouble with the law in the past and that people who know him have said the incident was "totally out of character."

During the term of his sentence, Pollack must abide by a curfew and seek counselling for anger management

and substance abuse. He is prohibited from consuming alcohol and cannot go into any premises where alcohol is served.

He was also banned from having any weapons in his possession for 10 years.

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FILE PHOTO

Ontario Court of Justice, St. Catharines.

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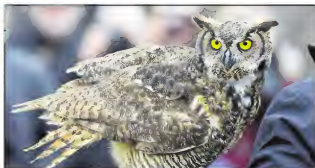
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BOB TYMCZYNSZYN / POSTMEDIA NETWORK

There was a steady stream of visitors to the Hawk Watch open house that was held Friday, March 25 at the Beamer Memorial Conservation park in Grimsby. A Great Horned Owl was on display by the Canadian Raptor Conservancy.

Braving the cold for Hawk Watch

BOB TYMCZYNSZYN
Postmedia Network

Leslie Price from Stratford was one of the avid birdwatchers who bundled up and braved the cold and wind at the annual Hawk Watch open house at Beamer Memorial Conservation area last Friday.

"My son is in the naturalist field group in Stratford, and he has gotten us all into it," she said.

"Every Sunday we go on drives, it's infectious you just start loving it, and we make a day of it."

Michael Street from the Niagara Peninsula Hawkwatch said they expected more than 1,000 enthusiasts, mostly from the Golden Horseshoe area but also from the other side of the lake.

Street said that Beamer is a key point along the migration route of the birds.

"These (birds) are all coming north to go to the breeding territories in Ontario," Street said that Beamer point is the

closest the escarpment comes to the south shore of Lake Ontario.

"Because of the wind hitting the escarpment, they get lift, they can see it, and they get on and just ride, it's like being on a highway."

He said an average of 15,000 birds will pass by between March 1 and May 15.

The birds are counted by about 12-15 volunteers, who take turns at the site between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

"Working with all the other hawk watchers helps get a picture of the population of these birds," he added.

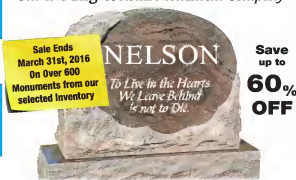
"We help keep track of populations; it helps general knowledge and share the information for studies."

Street said they had 4,500 birds in one day, and they were hoping for a good turnout at the open house.

"So many people don't even realize that this is going on over their heads."

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Niagara Health System recruiting two members for Board of Directors

Niagara Health is inviting applications for two (2) new Directors on its volunteer Board of Directors.

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- Legal and/or risk management;
- Engineering and/or construction.

Please read the role description and download an application form available on our website, www.niagarahealth.on.ca.

To express your interest, please submit the completed application and your resume to Dr. Barry Wright, Chair, Nominating Committee c/o Danielle Dube by April 8, 2016.

For more information, please call Danielle Dube at 905-378-4647 ext. 43103 or email danielle.dube@niagarahealth.on.ca

IN BRIEF

Memorial for former mayor Mardi Collins

Pelham town council dedicated a bronze plaque in memory of former mayor Mardi Collins last week. She died in November.

She served as Pelham mayor and Niagara regional councillor for two terms between 1988 and 1994.

Mayor Dave Augustyn read a series of tributes from local and area politicians who described her fierce dedication to the interests of Pelham. Former mayor Ralph Beamer called her a great mentor.

Everett Collins, on behalf of her family,



A memorial plaque for former mayor Mardi Collins has found a place on a town council chambers wall in the Pelham Municipal Building.

thanked town council and residents of the town for remembering Collins, who also served as a trustee on the then Niagara South Board of Education.

Funds arrive for mortar project

A German mortar may be ready to mark the anniversary of its capture in June.

Pelham will receive up to \$17,800 from Veterans Affairs Canada to complete restoration of a mortar. It has stood in front of Pelham Township's Great War cenotaph in Ridgeway since 1921.

Recreation director Vickie vanRenswouwe told town council last Monday she hopes the \$40,000 project will be complete for a June 24 dedication ceremony.

It would mark the 98th anniversary of the capture of the mortar in a raid on a German trench by an Alberta regiment during the First World War.

The town, federal government and Canadian Legion have shared costs to restore the mortar as well as upgrade the cenotaph in front of Old Pelham Town Hall.

The town improved the grounds around the cenotaph by adding landscaping and walkway.

The mortar was almost removed during planning of the project but residents interested in local heritage protested.

The cenotaph contains the names of 18 Pelham Township men who died from World War I. The mortar is considered part of their almost century-old memorial.

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<p>NEW LISTING</p>  <p>5103 DEEKS ROAD, WAINFLEET \$529,900</p> <p>Stunning 3-level home with 10 bedrooms and 10 bathrooms. This 3-year-old home features an open concept design with master's retreat and walk-in closet. Features hardwood floors, granite countertops, stainless steel appliances, and a large finished basement with a full kitchen, living room, and bedroom. Call Paul Marcov for more information.</p>	<p>GREAT LOCATION</p>  <p>339 SILVERTHORNE CNT, WELLAND \$229,000</p> <p>Great location! Just a stone's throw from the lake and close to Niagara Falls. Lot size just over 12 acres. Endless possibilities. Build a dream home!! Water and natural gas at the road. Contact Paul Marcov</p>	<p>NEW LISTING</p>  <p>803 RIVER RD., FENWICK \$299,000</p> <p>Great 3-level home on almost 1 acre in sought after Fenwick area. Home boasts lots of natural hardwood and large principal rooms. Open concept main floor with vaulted ceiling. 3 bedrooms. Many updates including electrical, furnace, central and tank-top gas water heater, central air. Short and to the lake! Don't miss this one. Call for more details. Contact Frank Spano</p>	<p>NEW LISTING</p>  <p>6015 MARY ST., NIAGARA FALLS \$415,000</p> <p>It was not too long ago when this beautiful home was built. This 3-level home features a large open concept main floor with hardwood floors, granite countertops, stainless steel appliances, and a large finished basement with a full kitchen, living room, and bedroom. Call Paul Marcov for more information.</p>	<p>NEW LISTING</p>  <p>246 CLARE AVE., WELLAND \$239,900</p> <p>BY PAUL MARCOV ONLY RESULTS!!</p>
<p>20 ACRES</p>  <p>900 CREAM ST., FENWICK \$729,900</p> <p>Stunning 3-level home with 10 bedrooms and 10 bathrooms. This 3-year-old home features an open concept design with master's retreat and walk-in closet. Features hardwood floors, granite countertops, stainless steel appliances, and a large finished basement with a full kitchen, living room, and bedroom. Call Paul Marcov for more information.</p>	<p>GROUND FLOOR</p>  <p>4111 FOREST GLEN BLVD., NIAGARA FALLS \$219,000</p> <p>Stunning 3-level home with 10 bedrooms and 10 bathrooms. This 3-year-old home features an open concept design with master's retreat and walk-in closet. Features hardwood floors, granite countertops, stainless steel appliances, and a large finished basement with a full kitchen, living room, and bedroom. Call Paul Marcov for more information.</p>	<p>NEW LISTING</p>  <p>25 CONRAD PLACE, GRIMSBY \$404,900</p> <p>Stunning 3-level home with 10 bedrooms and 10 bathrooms. This 3-year-old home features an open concept design with master's retreat and walk-in closet. Features hardwood floors, granite countertops, stainless steel appliances, and a large finished basement with a full kitchen, living room, and bedroom. Call Paul Marcov for more information.</p>	<p>NEW LISTING</p>  <p>10 CONRAD PLACE, GRIMSBY \$299,900</p> <p>Stunning 3-level home with 10 bedrooms and 10 bathrooms. This 3-year-old home features an open concept design with master's retreat and walk-in closet. Features hardwood floors, granite countertops, stainless steel appliances, and a large finished basement with a full kitchen, living room, and bedroom. Call Paul Marcov for more information.</p>	<p>16 ACRES</p>  <p>709 ROLAND ST., FENWICK \$279,000</p> <p>Stunning 3-level home with 10 bedrooms and 10 bathrooms. This 3-year-old home features an open concept design with master's retreat and walk-in closet. Features hardwood floors, granite countertops, stainless steel appliances, and a large finished basement with a full kitchen, living room, and bedroom. Call Paul Marcov for more information.</p>



Some of Niagara Parks' top chefs will join guests for the annual Niagara Chef Showcase on April 3 at the Legends on the Niagara clubhouse.

Niagara Parks' Chefs Showcase returns April 3

Postmedia Network

The Niagara Chef Showcase will return to Niagara Parks Sunday, April 3.

The event gathers Niagara Parks Commission's executive chefs, along with their colleagues from top restaurants across Niagara, to create a special menu using Ontario-grown ingredients.

The 'Feast ON' certified showcase includes growers, producers and craft-people from across the province.

In addition to desserts will be VQA wine, cider and craft beer.

Niagara Parks chefs taking part this year will be Sidney Krick of Queen Victoria Place, Bill Greenan of Queenston

Heights, Elbert Wiersema of Elements on the Falls, Chris Brown and Dan Willick of Legends on the Niagara, Tim Vandelaar of Whirlpool Golf Course restaurant and Richard Biebler of Niagara Parks Culinary.

Guest chefs will be Daniel Hong of Ah So Fine Foods, Matt Atkinson of Remington's of Niagara and Andrew Vergalito of Italian Ice Cream.

The event takes place at the Legends on the Niagara clubhouse from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

All proceeds support the upcoming NPC community tree planting event on May 7.

Tickets are \$75. Call 905-295-2241 ext. 218 or www.niagaraparks.com/chefs.

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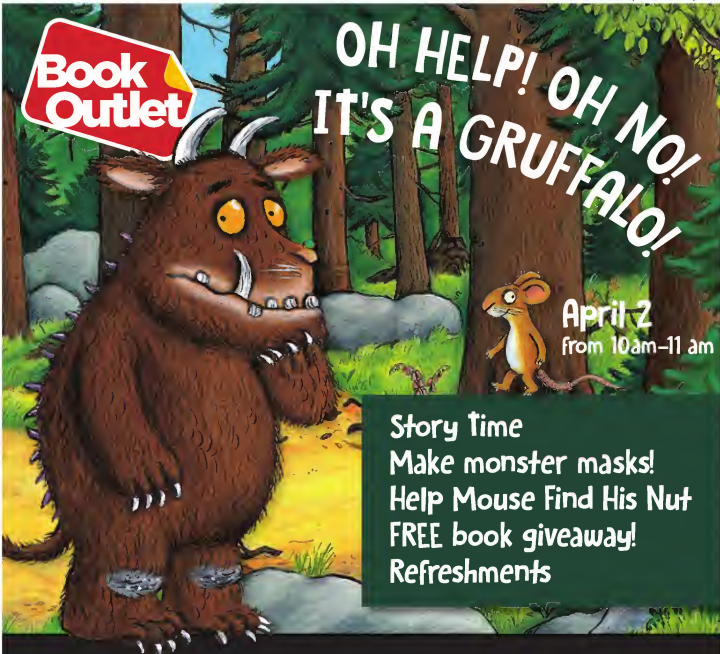

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SIU probes incident at Pen Centre

BILL SAWCHUK
Postmedia Network

The province's Special Investigations Unit is probing a confrontation between a teenager and Niagara Regional Police officers at the Pen Centre on St. Patrick's Day.

The 16-year-old Denis Morris High School student is recovering from a concussion as well as various scrapes and bruises.

The Special Investigations Unit is Ontario's civilian oversight agency responsible for investigating circumstances involving police that have resulted in death or serious injury.

John Bragnolino, the manager of the Pen Centre, said mail security received a call on St. Patrick's Day about two male subjects causing a disturbance. Niagara Regional Police officers were already at the mall for another incident and took over.

The teen's mother took to Facebook in frustration after saying she was unable to get an explanation for what happened to her son.

The mall allowed the mother to see surveillance video of the incident. She said the

video showed police injuring her son during the takedown. She said the video also showed her son was put in a chokehold and taken down again after he was in handcuffs.

The teen can't be named under provisions of the Youth Criminal Justice Act, which protects the identity of a person under the age of 18 who is charged with an offence or who may be under investigation.

The Pen Centre declined to allow Postmedia to view the video citing privacy concerns.

Now that the SIU is involved, Const. Phil Gavin said the NRP was prohibited from releasing information or commenting on the investigation.

Gavin said the NRP became aware last Monday, through social media posts, that the teen "may have suffered injuries during an interaction with a police officer involved in the investigation of the disturbance."

On the same date, the NRP contacted the SIU and forwarded the unit their information on the incident.

The SIU stepped in last Thursday.

BERTIE AND CLINTON MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY

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President of the Board Lloyd Roseboom (left) receives refund cheque from Vice-President of the Board Dave Wiley (right) at Bertie and Clinton Mutual's head office.

Bertie and Clinton is a local Mutual Insurance Company that specializes in providing farm insurance to its owning members. By insuring with the company, you can also become a part owner and have a voice in how the company is run. Recently, the company declared a refund from surplus of 20% on auto and 10% on property, liability and commercial premiums in 2015. An amount of \$1,857,807 was refunded to the policyholders provided they had been insured for at least one year and their policy was in force at December 31, 2015. Bertie and Clinton has declared a refund from surplus in nineteen of the last twenty-three years and has provided insurance for the Niagara Peninsula residents since 1860.

The company is run by nine directors who are elected by the policyholders at the Annual General Meeting. Each of the nine directors are elected for a three year term, with three being elected each year. At our 136th Annual General Meeting held March 22, 2016 at the Royal Canadian Legion in Fonthill, Howard Augustine of Wainfleet and Dominic Ioannidis of Niagara Falls were re-elected as Directors and Dave Hipple of Beamsville was also elected as a Director, for a three year term.

Lloyd Roseboom of Port Colborne was selected to serve the Company as the President of the Board and Dave Wiley of St. Catharines will serve the Company as the Vice-President of the Board, for the 2016-2017 year. Rachael Siciliano of Welland is the General Manager/CEO.

As of March 23, 2016, one of our Directors, Larry Hipple, began his well-deserved Retirement. Mr. Hipple has been a Director on our Board from 1980 to 2016 and he served as the President of the Board in 1986, 1992, 1999, 2008 and 2015. We would like to thank Mr. Hipple for his 36 years of service and wish him only the best on his retirement journey.

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ShipShape lease cancellation forces out boats

DON FRASER
Postmedia Network

Owners of about 100 boats must find new winter storage after the lease for ShipShape boat yard in Port Weller was terminated by St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corp.

"A process has been put into place to allow boat owners to store their boats, and proceed to put them back into the water in an orderly man-

ner," said seaway authority spokesman Andrew Bogora, who confirmed the mid-February lease cancellation.

Bogora said the property is now being managed by Niagara Falls' Mariow Bailiff and Property Management Services.

Marlow deferred comment to Bruce Hodgson, director of seaway market development, who said lease cancellation details are a "commercial item

that I prefer not to get into."

Jonathan Marler, general manager of ShipShape, said the issue was over tax payments, which he considered the seaway authority to be responsible for.

"I say the taxes were their responsibility (as they are the landlord); they say they were my responsibility," said Marler. He said the company is owned by son, with the lease in effect with the sea-

way authority since late 2007. He said the tax dispute arose in 2014.

Marler said ShipShape, while not yet legally defunct, is closed at its Seaway Haulage Road site due to the lease termination.

Hodgson said "we're in the process of setting up entry" for boaters using the facility as an overwintering spot. The site is now locked, and a bailiff's notice posted.

"ShipShape is not a marina per se," Hodgson said. "It's a boat storage facility... and what normally happens is once they're launched, they take their boats to their respective marina or docking facility."

"A lot of (the boat owners) need to work on their boats in order to get them ready for launch," Hodgson said. "We're setting that up, and then preparing the launch schedule following that."

He said owners are being provided with a temporary storage agreement: "We're in the process of sorting it out for everybody."

One boat owner contacted Postmedia to say he was left scrambling following the lease termination of ShipShape.

The boater — who requested his identity not be revealed — said the sea-

way authority terminated the lease with insufficient regard to boaters like himself who are affected by the decision.

"For the most part I would say we haven't had a lot of push-back," said Hodgson when advised about the complaint. "I think we've had one owner (complaint)."

"We're working to try and satisfy everybody as best as we can," he said. "We still have a couple of steps to put in place but we're confident we'll have the loop closed shortly."

Jonathan Marler, general manager of ShipShape, said the situation is "no different than the previous year, other than the gate is locked."

"As far as I know, nobody is scrambling... all the boats will be launched in April or May."

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BOB TIVICZNY/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

The ShipShape boat yard in Port Weller has had its lease terminated.

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